

Dublin, 28<sup>th</sup> of July, 1858.

Dear Mr. May - Your letter came to hand yesterday. I forwarded all the enclosures. Mr. Armstrong is now on a visit with some of his husband's relations about 30 miles north of Dublin. When in the city on her way thither I called on her at the house of a friend of hers, and she afterwards visited my wife. Her family of two sons & two daughters were with her. She is a quiet, reserved, self-possessed woman and is very much liked & respected by Miss Estlin, whose near neighbour she is. Have you yet seen Anne W. Weston? If ~~she~~ so she has probably told you that Miss Estlin & I went to Lough to see her before sailing, and that I accompanied her to Ansbledon, whether she went to see Harriet Martineau. I found Mr. very much pulled down by his long illness, but as vigorous minded & as full of activity as ever in the promotion of the anti-slavery cause and many other good objects. I know of no woman who possesses such vast intellectual powers; and no one could make a more judicious & judicious use of her talents than she does. I <sup>exceedingly</sup> enjoyed the opportunity which this gave me ~~exceedingly~~ for conferring on all points with your brilliant, wise, & straightforward little countrywoman. She is a free rate talker & we may truly say of her what her sister Caroline said of another, <sup>gladly</sup> whom you do not know. It was then "I know of nobody who can say so much in the same time & say it so well as she does."

Your remarks about the National Protest & your questions as to the actual position of affairs connected with the abandonment by England of the Right of Search were very good & were probably intended for the Advocate. If so, the letter came too or three days too late for this month's number -



but what you say about the National Protest  
will do just as well next summer. You exactly  
expressed, but in a compact & more dignified  
way, what my own impressions were on the sub-  
ject. Of course I would be far from wishing to dis-  
plicate an earnest, honest, intelligent, bona fide  
protest. Even though the hard heartedness of Amer-  
ican professors might make it of little effect, &  
it would still be a valuable testimony against evil.  
What I despair of is, that any such effort can do  
much good, proceeding from a majority of ill in-  
formed, unintelligent persons, who have so little com-  
science in the matter that pathetically, after giving their  
names, they will be ready to recede with their crime  
the first opportunity. I know how much more people can  
their stinging ears with the hollow sound of an empty  
profession. I know how much more people can  
for the honor & glory of their land than for the anti-  
slavery cause, and how easily they are misled by  
the mere external of sectarian righteousness. —  
With respect to the right of search part of your letter,  
I thought your questions so plain & so freely put,  
that I sent the whole letter to Harriet Martineau,  
whose important & influential position as a  
regular writer of leading articles in the London Daily  
News gives her an excellent opportunity for the  
full discussion and explanation of such a sub-  
ject as this. She would feel sympathizing with your  
anxiety, and nobody is better qualified to give  
you a proper & satisfactory answer. —  
We have lately had a somewhat unusual guest in the  
person of Mrs Harriet Jacobs, a colored woman who has been  
for the last 16 years living as nurse & "child's maid" in the



family of N. P. Wells of Idlewild. She brought a letter  
from Mrs Chapman, and called to ask about a lodging  
house in Dublin. We liked her so well on first acquaintance,  
and that we kept her while she remained in Dublin.  
She is a remarkably intelligent, refined, agreeable &  
interesting worthy woman, with strong attachment to the  
family with which she has lived, & great powers of graphic  
description of individual manners & characters, which  
were invariably exercised with judgment & discretion.  
Her sympathies are all with the abolitionists - but she  
is remarkably deficient in the propensity of denunciation  
which I would suppose to be essential to an effective  
soldier of the faith. She came over principally to  
try & publish an account of her own experiences of Slavery  
& of her escape from it, which was attended with many  
wonderful & almost unbelievable adventures - such as  
that she was for nearly 7 years stowed away under the  
rafters of a Dutch house which barely allowed her  
to lie, with little power of motion <sup>room</sup> for walking.  
We saw her manuscript, which she found rare  
& high flown - difficult to mend, & unfit for publica-  
tion. We consulted & considered a good deal & felt  
sundry capable judge, which resulted  
in the conclusion that she could not advantageously  
dispose of her manuscript to a London bookseller, at  
least in its present condition - that to alter it wd  
take away from its verisimilitude, & would require  
a large expenditure of time & trouble - that the only  
other mode of publication, that by subscription,  
could be out of the question, as Mrs Jacobs has  
neither the money, the assurance, nor the bodily  
energy requisite for going about & looking for help  
in this way. She goes home by one of the Canada  
lines next Saturday, which, I hope, carry the letter  
to Boston or New York.



The recent heterogeneous convention at Rutland, Ver-  
mont, has caused some ~~respectable~~ stir here.  
A report copied from the Tribune appeared in a New York  
paper & has been made the subject of comments in  
the Saturday Review of an extremely unpleasant  
kind. The resolution of a New Branch of New York  
with his own remarks upon it are made to appear  
like an advocate of indiscriminate sexual intercourse  
& an officer most worthy. ~~There~~ has the fact that  
many who know abolitionists were there, took part  
in the discussion, and approved of the convention  
themselves & disapproved upon the same here, &  
fills its friends with mortification & discouragement.  
The resolutions reported in the Liberator appeared to  
me to be extremely crude & foolish, and many of  
them utterly unfit to be discussed in an assembly of  
decent people of both sexes & all ages & conditions.  
Henry C. Wright may be a high souled reformer, but  
many of his hobbies are utterly distasteful to me  
& of a kind which do not bear to be proclaimed  
and enacted at the market-cross in the presence of  
all the gazing multitude. Mr Gerrinton was  
understand the reports, and if the proceedings were  
printed at length I would like very much to get a  
copy. Also of the poem of "Walt Whitman" which  
appeared in New York or Boston about two years ago.  
You can charge me with the cost in our mutual account.  
Miss Margaret Barrington wishes to discontinue the  
Liberator. I send you her reasons in the shape of a  
letter to the editor which you need not forward if you  
think it is founded on a misconception of facts &  
that more harm than good will be done by doing so.  
The truth is that there are very few here who care  
about the idea of a public discussion of such matters  
as Bible ordinances, & other abstruse questions which they  
regard as settled like the eternal hills - tho' they are not.



Since writing the preceding that I have had your letter  
back from H. W. who was obliged for the loan & like  
made use of your remarks as the foundation of an article.  
I have also seen some comments of on the Right of Search  
spoken in the House of Lords by Lord Lyndhurst and others  
that will show you how the question is viewed in England  
much better than I could express it. It is considered that  
the English conception was on a question of international  
law which left them no choice that the conduct of the  
Ministry has rather compassed the President who hoped  
to make political capital out of their ~~separate~~ determination  
to enter on the Right of Search & of visit. As far as I  
can judge the popular way of thinking, talking & writing about  
England which prevail on your side is contemptible &  
hateful & quite unlike the all but universal feeling in  
England. We have nothing corresponding to the everlasting  
blusters, boasts, threats & swaggings. The real general sentiment  
is friendly & indifferent. Will you please send the  
Morning Herald's of the debate cut out of it to Mrs Chapman  
when you are done with it.

I have since carefully reread the account of the Rutland  
convention & the comments on it in the Liberator. It has  
clearly been misrepresented by the Tribune & other papers  
in a way which would discredit any respectable paper  
here & which surprises me in the Tribune. Still the  
long string of queer resolutions convey the idea that they  
were not only discussed but carried in the Convention & it  
is impossible for an English reader to know how much is  
true & how much false. They only know that some of  
it is foolish, some indecent, & the far greater part repulsive  
to our notions of what is decent. Indeed the thing of  
offering an abstract proposition for serious discussion &  
decision to an indiscriminate meeting is not common  
here - nor do I think it a good weight of coming to any  
practical conclusion.

I was greatly grieved to hear of the death of Rev. W. Waterston  
only child - Edmund Quincy senior - in Naples. Have his parents  
some home & can you tell me any thing of them?



